CONFIDENTIAL AND PRIVATE.

Langford House,
B a n g a l o r e.

14th/15th August 1920.

Dear Mr.Barton,

With reference to the informal conversations that are going on between the Mysore and Madras Governments regarding the Cauveri Arbitration case, I cannot ascertain from the papers whether Sirdar Kantaraja Urs has kept you demi-officially informed of the progress that has so far been made in the matter. I take this opportunity of communicating to you privately, the progress that has been made in the discussions and the stage at which the whole matter stands now.

After Sir Thomas Ward had studied the Mysore case, he went to Ootacamund and after studying the Madras case, he presided at a conference between the technical officers of the two Governments which, however, did not result in anything tangible. Certain limit gauges were proposed by Madras after considerable discussion which Mysore did not at the time accept; but when our officers returned to Mysore, the Government went into the whole matter deeply and suggested a further conference at which our officers were to be definitely authorized to come to terms in regard to the main points of difference. As a result of the second conference, Mr. Howley communicated his proposals which he was prepared to submit to his Government for acceptance, in a letter dated the 3rd July which he concluded as follows:- "I hope the above covers all the points that came under discussion and that you will see your way to accept these proposals. On hearing from you that you are prepared to recommend them to your Durbar for acceptance, I shall at once place the matter before my own Government for their consideration as early as possible."

Before a reply was sent to this letter, Mr. Howley followed up this communication with two other letters raising some other issues. As, however, the main points were agreed upon, our Chief

Chief Engineer replied to Mr. Howley confirming the understanding arrived at on those points and suggested that as regards the other questions raised, they might be settled at a subsequent meeting. The idea to have another conference on the subsequent issues raised by Mr. Howley was based on Sir Thomas Ward's private advice to our Chief Engineer which he sent from Simla to the effect that it was not desirable to write but have further conversations. The limit gauges that were finally offered by the Madras Government have been accepted by our technical officers subject to certain conditions which were proposed on behalf of Mysore and these conditions have also been accepted - some absolutely and some provisionally. As the letter of the 3rd July which embodies the main terms of the understanding is pretty clear, I herewith enclose for your private information, a copy.

The last letter received from Mr. Howley, however, raises an ominous note. In that letter he says that there are difficulties in the way of his Government accepting the proposals that he has agreed to and he refers to the agitation amongst the Tanjore mirasidars who have proposed to take a deputation to His Excellency the Governor with the request that they may be heard before anything is finally decided. Mr. Howley points out now that the terms that might have been acceptable a few weeks ago, may not in these circumstances, be accepted now. Of course, the meaning of this observation is not very clear to us; and in the last sentence he says that if we cannot come to terms finally soon, a fresh arbitration will be the fairest and the quickest way of disposing of the matter. I do not quite know what the difficulties are under which the Madras Government are now labouring for, these informal conversations were started with the main object of bringing together the technical officers of the two Governments, so that they might between themselves come to an understanding and I was hoping that, there was every likelihood of a complete

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and definite agreement being drawn up which would be acceptable to both parties and what the technical officers could do was to affix their signatures to the understanding that had been arrived at and leave the political and other questions to their respective Governments to settle. Mr. Howley has evidently not even now placed the proposals agreed upon before his Government in a formal manner, but at all events, the result of the next informal conference which is fixed for the 23rd instant at Madras may be awaited. In the meantime, if you have any advice to give with reference to the part Sir Thomas Ward has taken in this connection, I shall be obliged. It may be expedient to bring down Sir Thomas Ward again, because he has been of considerable assistance to us during the first stages of these conversations; but I would not like to suggest this to His Highness before consulting you. I shall be glad to come and discuss the matter in person if you consider it necessary and show you all the confidential correspondence that has taken place between the Madras and Mysore Government technical officers, for your private unofficial information.

Yours sincerely,

Sd. A.R.Banerji.

The Hon'ble

Mr. W.P.Barton, C.I.E., I.C.S.,

Resident in Mysore.

"C O P Y"